

# *Independence Hall*







## WHY BUILD INDEPENDENCE HALL?

I was asked that same question in 1940 when we started "Ghost Town." Mrs. Knott and I were 50 years old then; our restaurant business was just getting started and there were so many places on the Farm that needed improvement, yet we felt stirred by the historical past that Ghost Town was to portray, so we let other things wait while we proceeded to build Ghost Town.

In 1965, Mrs. Knott and I were 75 and we felt this project could be put off no longer, or it might never be done.

Our Declaration of Independence was worked out and signed there by 56 brave men who closed it with these famous words, "And in the support of this declaration, with a reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." Truly great men. Then after nearly ten years of war when victory finally came, other dedicated, and I believe divinely guided, men again met in Independence Hall to decide what kind of government we should have. They too produced one of the world's greatest documents—our Constitution. These two documents are among the greatest ever conceived by man; they have changed the course of liberty.

Independence Hall is a beautiful and stately building and one all of us at the Farm are very proud of. Like the original in Philadelphia, ours too houses a Liberty Bell, perhaps America's most outstanding symbol of freedom.

Over the years millions of Americans will visit our Independence Hall and be reminded of our American heritage. Each year thousands of school children come and touch the Liberty Bell and see where our historical documents were signed.

I think, like starting Ghost Town many years ago, building Independence Hall was a milestone in the history of the Farm and one we are all proud of. It is our reminder of some of the most important events in all history.

*Walter Knott*



# Independence Hall

In the heart of the bustling metropolis of Philadelphia, on a plot of ground bounded by Chestnut, Walnut, Fifth, and Sixth Streets, stands the most outstanding shrine of American liberties—Independence Hall.

The venerable old building looks small today, because it is nestled among gigantic elm trees and multi-storied office buildings of the modern era.

The apparent size of the Hall is only an illusion, however, for it is a massive structure, and the decisions that were made within its walls towered over all other events of our American history. In this building, the United States of America was born. The fledgling nation was spawned in the rebellious minds of men who valued their freedom more than their very lives. They also realized full well that their signatures on the Declaration of Independence meant the gallows for each of them—if the Revolutionary War was lost.

The story of Independence Hall begins long before the United States of America or the Declaration of Independence. For half a century, the Pennsylvania Assembly had met in private buildings, rented annually. It was now time for that body to have a home of its own. In 1729, the Assembly appropriated funds to begin work on a State House.

A committee, consisting of Speaker of the Assembly Andrew Hamilton, Assemblyman Dr. John Kearsley, and Councilman Thomas Lawrence, was named to supervise the job. Almost immediately, a disagreement arose between Hamilton and Kearsley over the location and plans. This disagreement held up the program until 1732, when the present site was selected.

The Assembly first met in the building in 1735; but there was no paneling in the rooms, and many of the windowpanes had not been installed. Difficulties of many types, especially the lack of skilled workmen, slowed construction work.

Considering the size of the buildings, and the material handling facilities of the mid-1700's, it is easy to see that this was a most ambitious project.

The huge brick structure, as designed in 1732, was an almost rectangular shape, approximately 100 feet long by 40 feet in depth. The building was two stories high, and the decked, gable roof was balustraded between the chimneys. A small cupola, which looked something like a watchtower, rose over the center of the building.

In the mid-1700's, the cupola was removed, and the bell tower and the more familiar cupola were installed. The tower was to carry the new State House bell that had been ordered in 1751. This bell would later be known as the Liberty Bell.

By 1773, the steeple had rotted to a dangerous extent. It had become so weak that it nearly toppled when the bell was rung. Even though the structure was extremely dangerous, the work of its removal was not done until 1781, when a small hipped roof was installed. The bell was then hung below this diminutive spire.

In 1812, after the Federal and State Capitols had moved to Philadelphia, the State House came dangerously close to being torn down. However, the building was saved when the city bought the group of buildings and the square from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1818 for \$70,000.00.

In 1824, a move was started to lift the old State House to the public's attention as a shrine. William Strickland, a famous American architect, designed a new steeple, which was installed in 1828. This new steeple was more ornate than the original and had one important change—clock faces were added at the 85-foot level of the tower.

Since that time, few appreciable changes have been made to the main building. Now known as Independence Hall, the building has retained its appearance to the present day.

In accepting the challenge to build an Independence Hall at the Berry Farm, Mr. Knott realized the overwhelming problems that would have to be met. To duplicate exactly a building built over 230 years ago, yet build it within the requirements of today's building codes, looked like an impossible task.





*Independence Hall, Philadelphia*

Drawing the plans would take many months and require many trips to Philadelphia to inspect the original building. Shelves of books would have to be read and reams of research material digested before a line could be drawn on the prints.

Hundreds of color pictures would be taken, both inside and outside of the building, for the problem involved not only constructing a building, but included fixtures and furniture that was such an important part of the whole picture.

After each print was completed, it had to be checked with city officials to make sure it would meet today's building code requirements.

Skilled craftsmen, who were truly proud of their work, would have to be assembled to do much of the ornate cabinetry.

While the work of erecting the building was going on, other skilled men were building furniture, chandeliers, and the elaborate electronic equipment that would handle the 14-track stereo tape for the debates in the Declaration Chamber presentation. Actors



*Independence Hall, Knott's Berry Farm*

were rehearsing their lines to be put on tape when the recording sessions began. Paint experts, after securing a sample of the paint in the original Independence Hall, were carefully mixing and blending hundreds of gallons of paint.

When the building was finished, it was more than the completion of Mr. Knott's dream. It was an exhibit of the quality work of skilled American craftsmen.

It was, and will remain in the future, an opportunity for people of all ages, who may never be able to visit Philadelphia, to see a re-creation of the birthplace of our American liberties and of the United States of America.

Independence Hall at Knott's Berry Farm is truly a memorable experience. It is an invitation for everyone to reflect on what took place before the Declaration of Independence was signed and the overwhelming problems with which the signers of the Declaration struggled, in making their courageous decision.



# The Bell



One of the most challenging exhibits for Independence Hall was the Liberty Bell. Because of its status as a symbol of our independence, it had to be given the same thoughtful attention as Independence Hall itself.

Almost immediately, Bud Hurlbut and his late father, Ray Hurlbut, owners of Hurlbut Amusement Company at the Berry Farm, offered to build the Liberty Bell as their contribution to the project.

Actually, little was known about the Liberty Bell. The size, weight, and metallic composition were on record, but no blueprints existed. Many copies of the original bell had been made, but none of absolute accurate detail.



Bud Hurlbut turned to the original Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. He measured and photographed every detail of the bell, yoke, standards, base, and accessory hardware. When he returned to the Berry Farm, he was armed with pockets full of notes and measurements.

Photos of the lettering on the bell were projected on a screen.

Then wooden letters were hand carved and set on the wooden bell pattern.

Perhaps the most perplexing challenge came when Mr. Knott requested that the bell be authentically cracked, and not drilled out as was the original Liberty Bell.

Carving an accurate pattern and casting a 2,080 pound bell was difficult enough, but putting a custom-made crack in the casting seemed almost impossible.

Prior to the molding of the bell, a fracture was built into the bell pattern. It was hoped that when the metal was poured and the hot casting removed from the mold, the contraction of the hot metal would crack the casting.

When the flask was removed, cold water was sprayed on the

hoped-for fracture line, but nothing was achieved except a huge cloud of steam.

A vigorous application of a sledge hammer produced nothing but a vibrant “bong” as the bell did its job.

Finally, in sheer desperation, Bud Hurlbut froze the bell in dry ice. When a heliarc torch was applied to the frozen fracture line, the bell cracked, exactly as called for in the plans.

After a long search, a 125-year-old slippery elm tree was found in the Sinnissippi Forest, in Illinois, to provide the plank for the heavy wooden bell yoke.

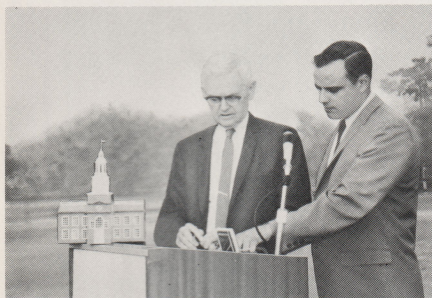
Solid cherrywood was formed and polished to provide a suitable pedestal for the authentic reproduction of the Liberty Bell.





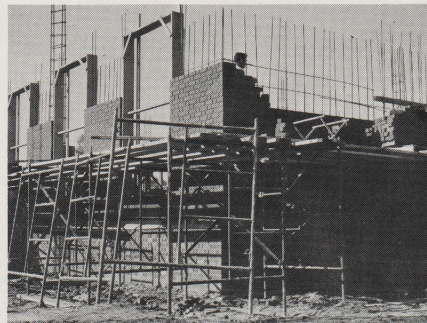
# Construction

After months of painstaking research, the drawing and re-drawing of hundreds of blueprints, the project of building Independence Hall was approved, and the Don Koll Construction Company of Newport Beach, California, was designated General Contractor.



The exterior of the building would be of red brick, laid in the unique Flemish Bond pattern with grapevine joints. But . . . the bricks had to be special, too, for they must match the original Independence Hall bricks, and they were over 200 years old.

In Highgrove, California, a specialty brick company undertook the task of producing 140,000 hand-finished clay bricks. On December 13, 1965, Mr. Knott personally laid the first few bricks in the southeast corner of the building.



Almost immediately crews of highly skilled brick masons started erecting the walls and installing the stone facade.

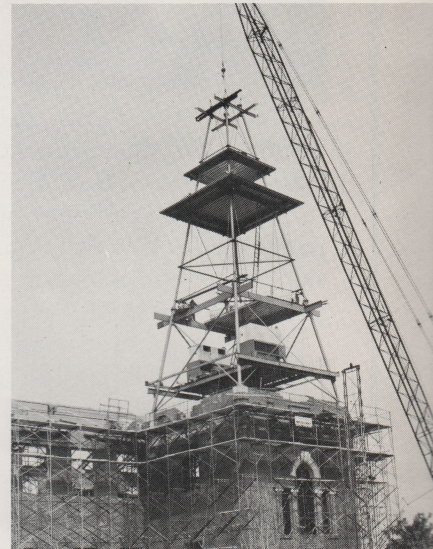
Inside the building, workmen of almost every construction talent handled their tasks—plumbers, painters, carpenters, cabinet makers, electricians, audio men, air conditioning experts, and the men who laid the floor tile. All of these men worked with a heartfelt pride in their work.

Alongside the rising building, steelworkers were assembling the 75-foot quadriped steel tower, which was lifted in three sections and mounted securely to the tower structure.

With the steel tower erected, steelworkers and sheet metal men were busy fabricating the octagonal belfry and copper sheeted cupola that would form the upper reaches of the tower.

Swinging freely on the tip of the spire is the weather vane, a gold-plated assembly, seven feet long. The origin of its unique arrow-feather design is unknown.

Finally, the whole assembly, belfry, cupola, spire, and weather vane, were lifted into place, bringing the structure to its ultimate height of 168 feet.



Meanwhile, in Spokane, Washington, the American Sign and Indicator Corporation, makers of the nationally known time and temperature clocks, was busily building the tower clock with its four ten-foot faces that would be erected at the







85-foot level. Each clock face was lifted in two pieces and mounted on the tower walls.

In the Berry Farm's own shops, workmen were building the elaborate chandeliers found in Independence Hall. Berry Farm cabinetmakers were hand-carving the famous "Rising Sun Chair."

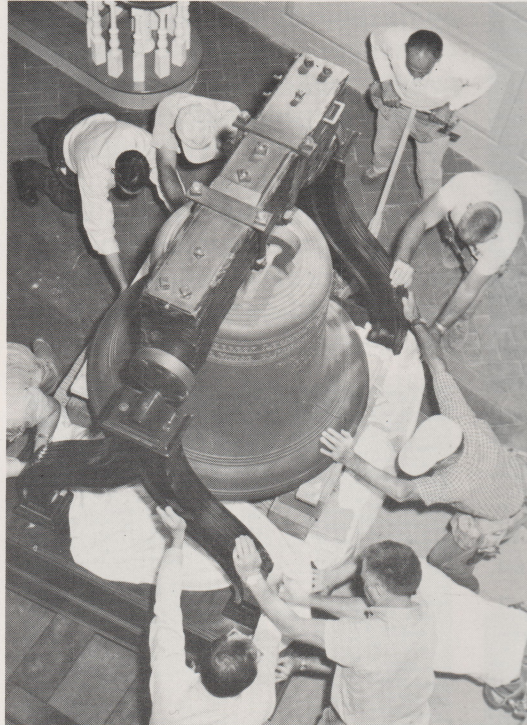
In Anaheim, California, the Lund Family, owners of the Lund Paint Company and long time friends of the Knott Family, produced an exact duplicate of the paint used in the original Independence Hall.

In Pasadena, California, the Atlantic-Richfield Company built and donated two 60-foot flagpoles.

To top off these flagpoles, two beautiful gold-plated eagles were being handmade by craftsmen who learned this art from their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. Each eagle has a thirty-inch wingspan and is perched on top of an eight-inch handcrafted gold ball.

To produce the presentation for the Assembly Room, electronic engineers were building complicated tape recording equipment. The equipment would handle the fourteen-channel, magnetic tape presenting the debates heard in the Assembly before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

As the building neared completion, ground crews of the Berry Farm completed the landscaping. Huge beds of red, white, and blue flowers were planted as a patriotic setting for the dedication of the historic building on July 4, 1966.





## Appointments



Standing behind the Speaker of the Assembly's table is the ornate, hand-carved "Rising Sun Chair."

This chair was hand carved by the Berry Farm's skilled craftsmen.

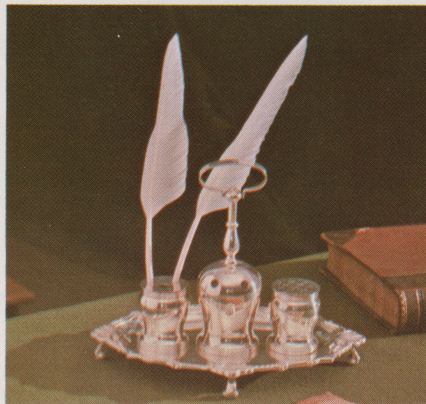


The "Rising Sun Chair" got its name from the half-sun and rays carved in the top of the chair.

On September 17, 1787, after the Convention adopted the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin pointed to the insignia and said, *"I have often in the course of Session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that sun behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But, now, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."*

While the Assembly Room was adequately furnished, it could hardly be called elaborate. Chairs, tables, and curtains indicate that the furnishings were not unduly expensive. However, one item, the silver inkstand on the Speaker's table, was purchased at a price of £25.16.00, approximately \$71.60 on today's exchange—over \$400.00 on the current market. The original silver stand was purchased from Philip Syng, a noted silversmith of Philadelphia.

The Buena Park Rotary Club, wishing to have a part in furnishing Independence Hall, ordered a duplicate inkstand and presented it to Mr. Knott.



The elaborate chandeliers found in the Tower Room, Hall and Supreme Court Room were designed and built by craftsmen here at the Berry Farm.

The many strands of glass beads and imported crystals add a warm, rich atmosphere to the rooms.



Perhaps it is not surprising, but the generations that have followed the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence have produced many descendants.

In the Supreme Court Room, there is an ornate register book, which is reserved especially for the signatures of direct descendants of the original signers.



The origin of the "Honesty Button" has been lost in antiquity; however, it was a prominent part of buildings erected during the Colonial Period.

The "Honesty Button" is a one-inch diameter ivory button located in the top of the newel post. The newel post is the main support post for the handrail, as it forms into a sweeping curve at the bottom of the stairs in the Tower Room.

The "Honesty Button" was placed in the post when the building was completed and paid for.



Unauthenticated stories say that the number of grooves in the button denote the number of payments needed to complete the total cost of the building. It is also rumored that delegates always touched the button before entering the Assembly Chamber.

The Assembly Chamber was the scene of the fiery debates which preceded the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence.

In this room, all the delegates suffered the agonies of decision. Each of them realized the extreme penalty—death by hanging—they would pay, if the Revolutionary War was lost.

The room itself is crowded with fifteen tables, one for each of the thirteen colonies, one for the Speaker, and one for the Secretary. Around the tables are gathered authentic copies of the chairs used by the delegates, Speaker, and Secretary.

Normally, sessions closed before the hours of darkness; however, if a night session was scheduled, can-

dles were brought in for each table.

Each table was covered with a green felt cloth. The cloth served as a suitable writing surface. It also kept the delegates' legs warm in winter, and protected them from flies in summer.

The room was heated by two fireplaces located in the end of the room.

When you visit our Independence Hall, you will be treated to a unique experience.

In the Assembly Room you will hear the delegates argue for and against a declaration of independence.

The voices of the delegates are heard through an elaborate electronic sound system, utilizing a fourteen-channel magnetic tape. These voices are fed through a total of thirty-eight speakers.

Speakers are so located that one actually feels the presence of the delegate at his table as he delivers his talk.

Sound effects of horse and wagon rattling over the cobblestone streets,

and the Fife and Drum Corps of the victorious Revolutionary Army add to the realism of the setting.

Uniquely, the thing that is carried away from the session is not simply the physical setting, but rather, a feeling of what must have gone through the delegates' minds as they made their monumental decision to declare for independence.

One can truly feel the struggle in the minds of the delegates, as they wrestle with the urgency of the matter, and the horrible things that would happen if the Revolutionary War was lost.

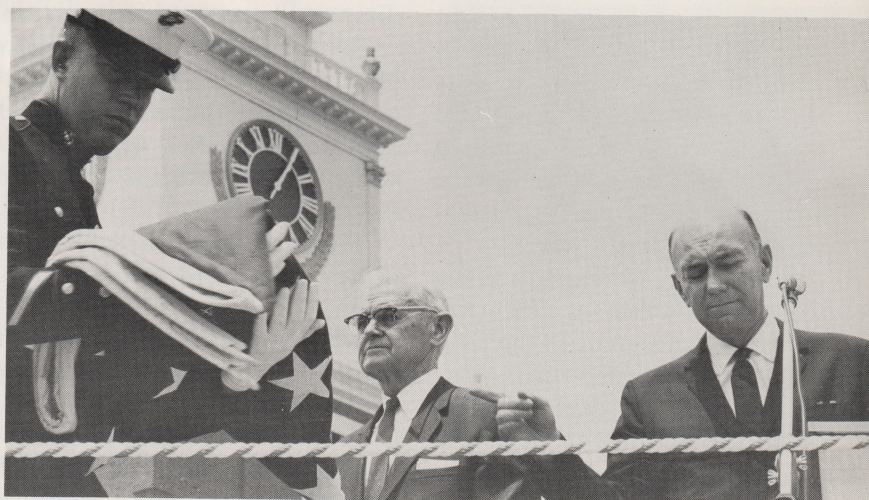
While listening to the debates, one feels proud of the delegates who fought so determinedly for a declaration, but a touch of disappointment as other delegates speak out against such a declaration. The wry humor of Benjamin Franklin adds a chuckle to the otherwise dignity of the event.

Yes, a visit to the Assembly Room is truly an experience—an experience, we are certain, you will never forget.





# Dedication Day



July 4, 1966—190 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence—Mr. and Mrs. Knott, members of their family, representatives of local, state, and federal governments, Boy Scouts, and direct descendents of the signers of the Declaration of Independence gathered in front of Independence Hall for the dedication.

Several thousand people lounged on the grass in front of the stands while the U. S. Marine Corps Band played, and a red-robed choir from a nearby high school sang patriotic songs.

The Daughters of the American Revolution presented Mr. Knott with an American flag which had flown over the White House, the original Independence Hall, and Valley Forge.

The colorful Marine Corps Honor Guard posted the colors and the dedication was underway.

Both the California Senate and Assembly presented resolutions to Mr. Knott commending him and his family for their efforts in bringing to California such a historic landmark.

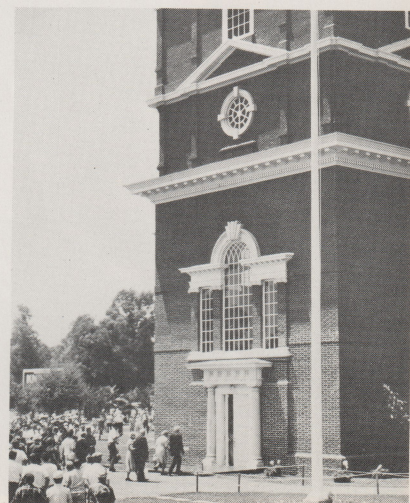
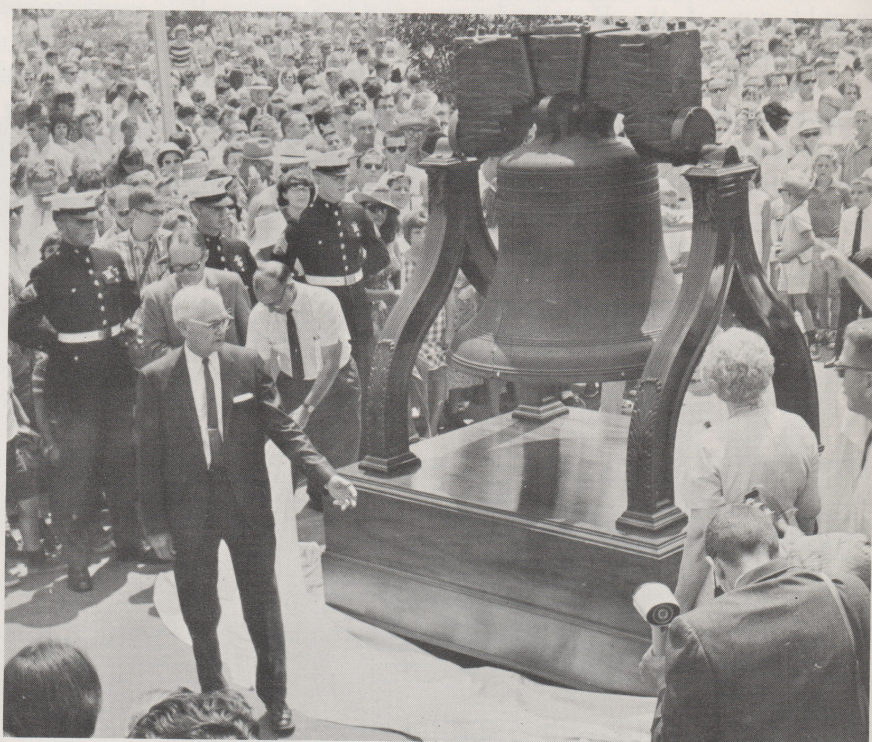
During his speech, Mr. Knott expressed his appreciation to all who helped build Independence Hall.

In closing his talk, he said, "At last my dream is realized. I can only hope that people who visit this building will go away with a true appreciation of what happened in that chamber so many, many years ago."

After Mr. Knott's speech, the official dedication statement was read. It included these words:

"Now, in public recognition of the gracious hand of God's Providence upon our national life, we dedicate this building to Him whom our Founding Fathers acknowledged to be the Divine Source of all true liberty."

Now, nothing remained but the unveiling of the Liberty Bell, and this honor could only be bestowed upon Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knott.





# Living History



For many years, Walter Knott sheltered a dream. His dream was to build an Independence Hall at Knott's Berry Farm.

Yet, his dream went much further than merely building an Independence Hall that would be a duplicate of the original in Philadelphia. He wanted each visitor to relive a very important moment of our history, to feel the never-to-be-forgotten experience of being present at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As the tour begins, the guests are greeted by a young lady attractively dressed as a colonial maiden would be. Her costume is authentic

right from the dainty lingerie cap to the silver buckles on her shoes.

Our tour guides are a select group of young ladies, and they play an important role in reminding guests how valuable our freedom is and the great price our founding fathers were willing to pay for that freedom. They receive special training and are qualified to answer the many unique questions asked by our guests.

Enroute to Independence Hall, the guide gives interesting data about the massive building. Her quaint stories are most captivating, especially under the shadow of a tower which looms 168 feet into the sky.

Arriving at the main entrance, the tour enters the Tower Room, and we have our first view of the Liberty Bell. Sitting majestically on its colorful cherrywood pedestal, the 2,080 pound bell almost demands a feeling of reverence. As the guest gazes at the bell, a story of the history of this symbol of our liberty is told.

You will hear of how the bell was hidden under the floor of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Redcoats, and how it cracked on July 8, 1835, as it tolled in mourning at the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.







The attention of the group is called to the unusually designed staircase and the strange story of the "Honesty Button."

Next, the tour enters the Assembly Room, where it is treated to a most unusual experience—an actual sound presentation of the debates leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

It is impossible to come out of the Assembly Chamber without feeling that you have just witnessed one of the most important events in our history.

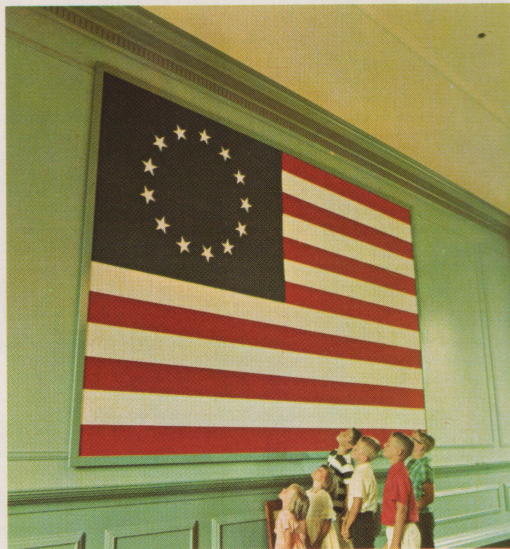
When the Declaration Chamber show is over, the tour then visits the Supreme Court Room just across the hall.

On the west wall, is the huge colonial flag, better known as the Betsy Ross flag. Here, too, is displayed an original copy of the Declaration of Independence. This copy was presented to George Ross, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The copy has since been presented to Mr. Knott by direct descendants of Mr. Ross.

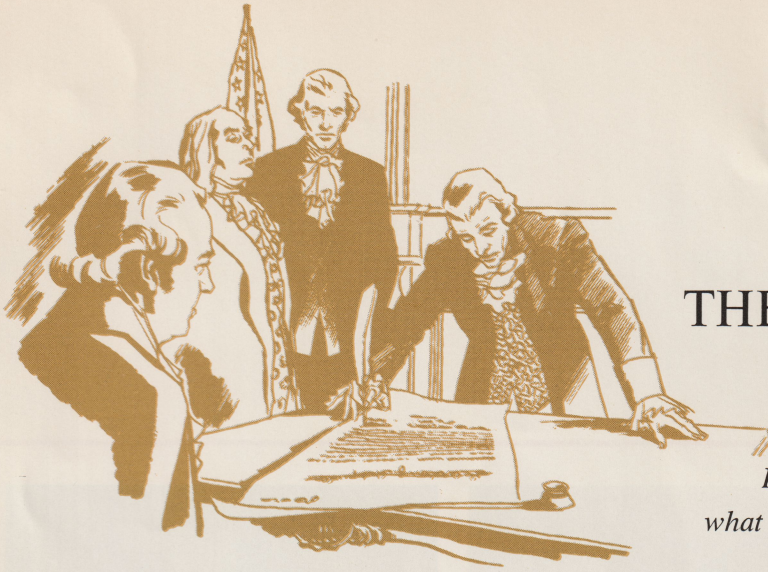
A hand engraved copy of the first prayer ever delivered in the Continental Congress is also on display.

If you are a direct descendent of one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, you are invited to sign our special register of descendants.

We are sure that you will long remember your visit to Independence Hall, and that you will want to return again to relive with us this milestone of our history.







## THE PRICE THEY PAID

*Have you ever wondered  
what happened to those men who signed the  
Declaration of Independence?*

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another had two sons captured. Several took part in various battles of the American Revolution, and many suffered wounds or other physical hardships.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. These were men of means and education. Yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

When these courageous men signed, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of freedom and independence.

Richard Stockton returned to New Jersey in the fall of 1776 to find the state overrun by the enemy. He removed his wife to safety but was himself captured. His home, his fine library, his writings—all were destroyed. Stockton was so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined, and he died before the war's end.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay his debts.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Heyward, Middleton, Harrison, Hopkinson and Livingston.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"Honest John" Hart was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. While eluding capture, he never knew where his bed would be the next night. He often slept in forests and caves. When he returned home, he found that his wife had died, and his children were gone.

Such are the stories and sacrifices typical of those who risked everything to sign The Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

*They gave us an independent America.*

*Let's keep it that way.*





IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places un-

the right of Representation in the Legislature a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after

dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population

State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his assent to the Laws that establish the Judiciary; he has usurped the Powers of Congress and of the Courts of Justice, and has affected to exercise Powers that can only be exercised by himself and by the Senate.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large

bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world; For imposing Taxes on us without Consent; That whenever we have presented Petitions of Right against their illegal Invasions on our Rights, they have either taken no Notice of them or have rejected them before they reached the House of Commons: That in the most barbarous and oppressive manner they have caused us close and distant Journeys to Court to sue for the Redemption of our unjustly detained Persons; That they have created new Offices, and have thrust us into them at great Expence of Money and Labour; That they have surrounded us with Officers of Arms, who have seized upon our Houses and Estates, and carried us and our Goods into Prison; That they have frequently sent us on long and dangerous Voyages to suffer Imprisonment abroad, under Colour of Justice; That they have contrived to spread us far and wide, amongst those of different Religions and Languages, that we may neither see nor hear one another, but may be cruelly separated, and my Family destroyed: That they have endeavoured to make us separate Members of the same Body, so that we cannot feel one another's Grievances, that we cannot represent ourselves as one People, that we cannot form united Opinions, and exert united Power: That every Thing they do has a direct Tendency to the Establishment of that Oppression and Tyranny, which hath so long afflicted us, and which your joint Petitions have humbly supplicated to remove.

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing instead thereof a tyrannical Government by a pretence of Mercantile Policy: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing instead thereof a tyrannical Government by a pretence of Mercantile Policy:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and rights, by which we are bound, for suspending our own Legislatures, and exercising every power of Legislation by a Council of Trade Agents, for imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and rights, by which we are bound, for suspending our own Legislatures, and exercising every power of Legislation by a Council of Trade Agents, for imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of His Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time trans-

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of so civilized a Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic Violence among us, and has incited the Indians against us.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished

destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is at once remarkable by its talents and its virtues, has succeeded to the Throne. He has too much merit to doubt the justice of our Cause; he has too much wisdom to see that the feelings of humanity and love his Subjects will be best satisfied by redressing their Grievances, and removing those Obstacles which hinder them from obtaining their Rights as free Men.

have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over our Colonies. Now, it is time to warn them, that it is not in vain that we have thus remonstrated and petitioned: in every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor

Have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have

under us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in a little more blood.

leaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

WE, THEREFORE, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT States may of right do. AND for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

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